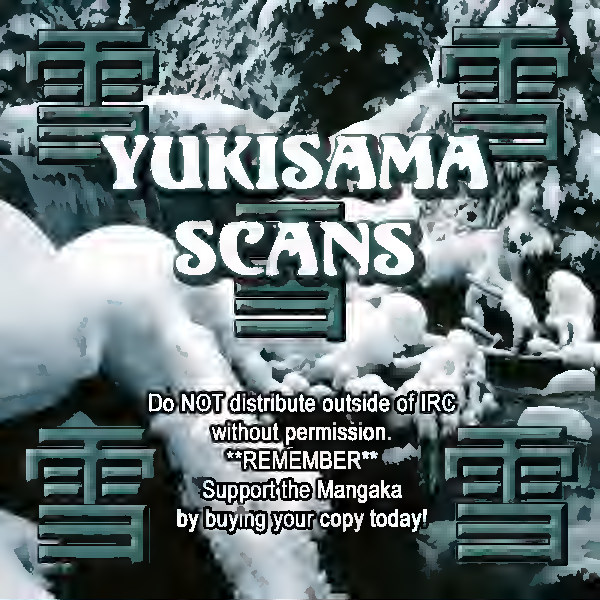
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TOKYOPOP
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9

REBIRTH™

VOLUME 9

STORY and ART BY
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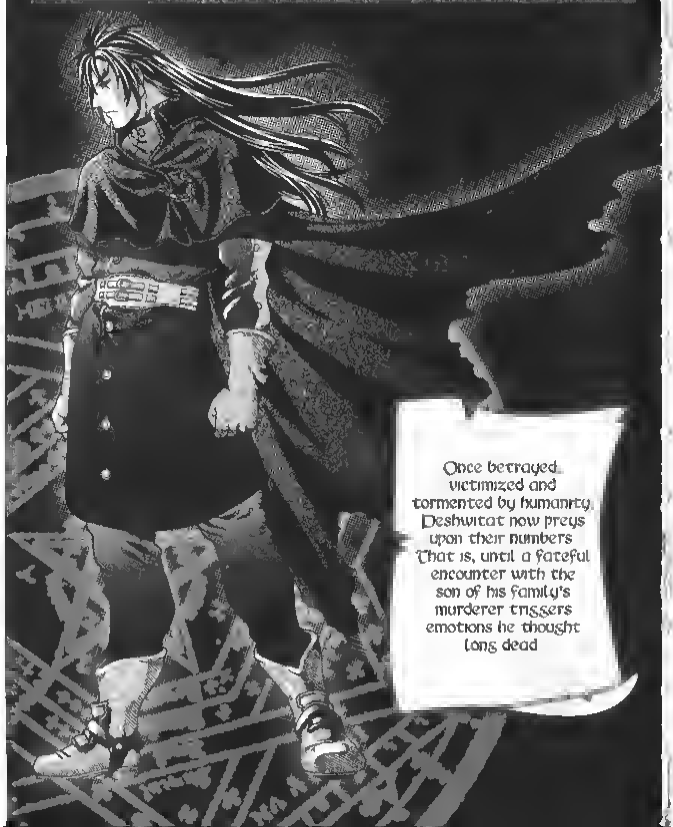
DESHWITAT- THE VAMPIRE

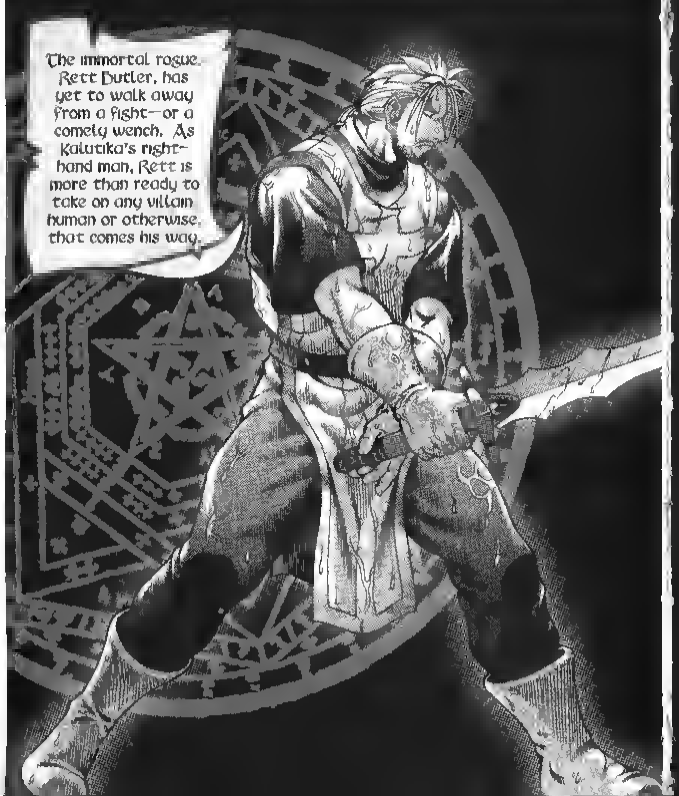


Once betrayed, victimized and tormented by humanity, Deshwitat now preys upon their numbers. That is, until a fateful encounter with the son of his family's murderer triggers emotions he thought long dead.

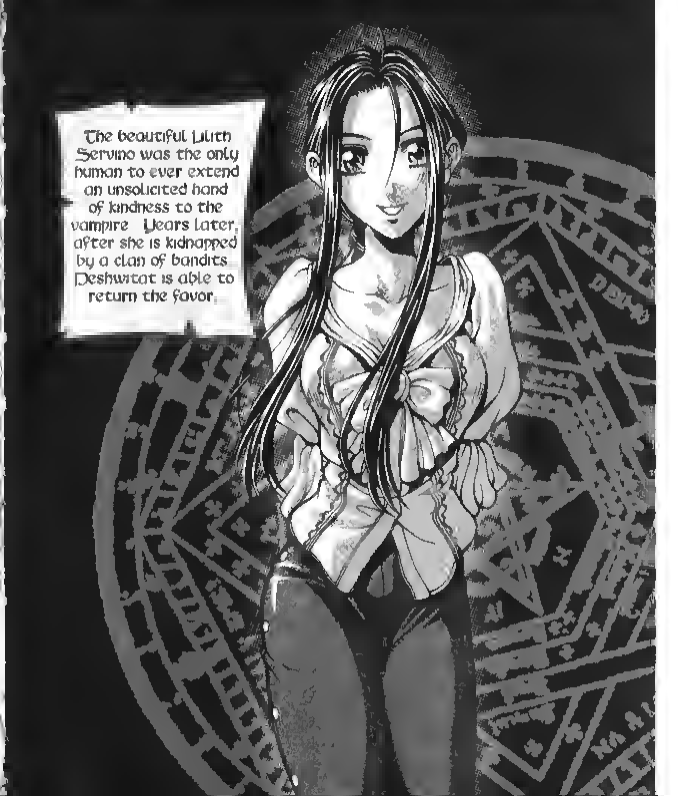
KALUTIKA- THE SOLDIER

Born into a life of privilege, Kalutika Maybus II strived to meet the expectations of his domineering father. For reasons unknown even to himself, Kalutika sees in Deshwitat a kindred spirit.

RETT—THE HELLRAISER


The immortal rogue, Rett Butler, has yet to walk away from a fight—or a comely wench. As Kalutika's right-hand man, Rett is more than ready to take on any villain human or otherwise, that comes his way.

LILITH—THE MAIDEN


The beautiful Lilith Servino was the only human to ever extend an unsolicited hand of kindness to the vampire. Years later, after she is kidnapped by a clan of bandits, Deshwitat is able to return the favor.

Rebirth Vol. 9
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STORY THUS FAR

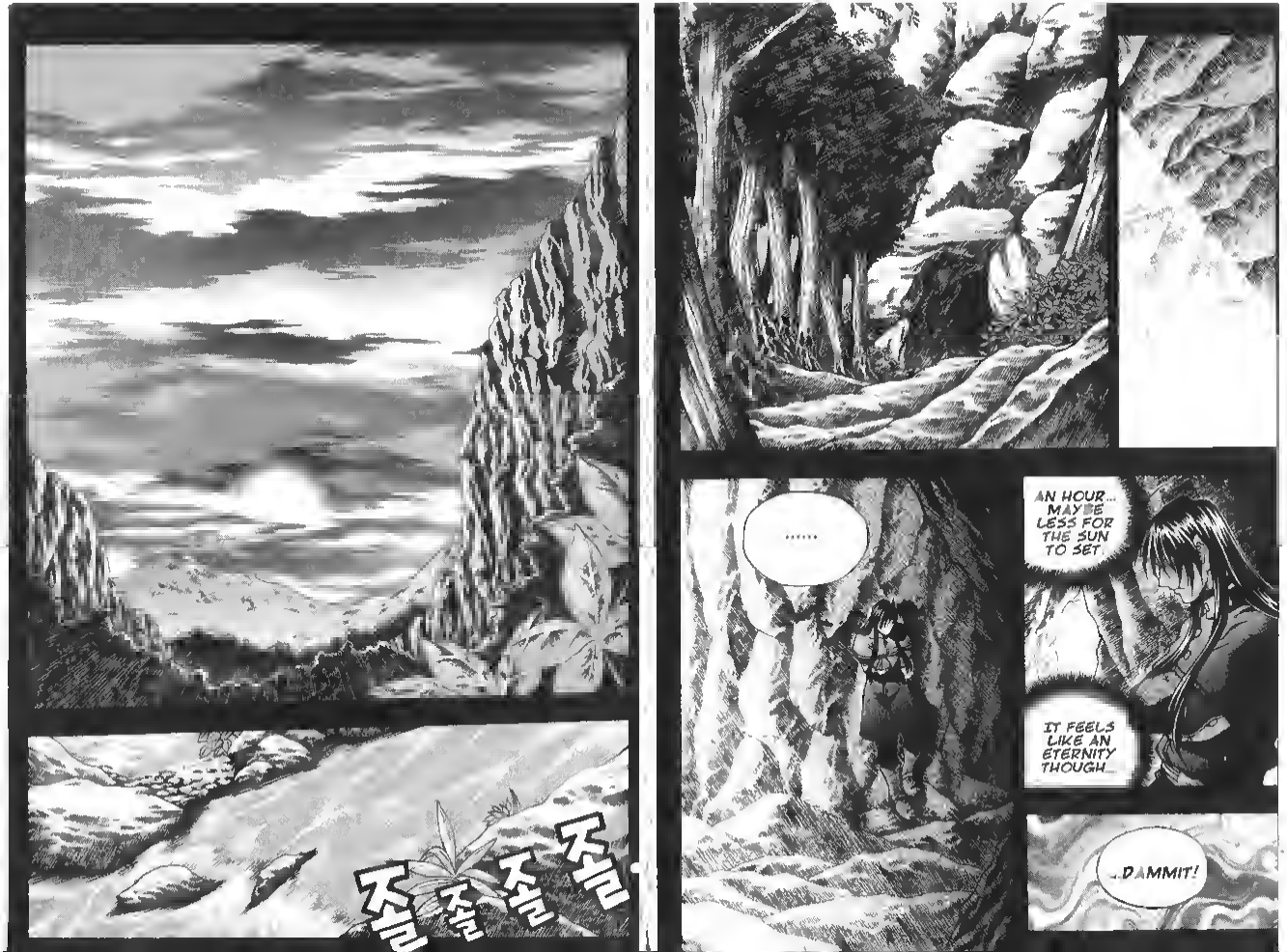
The mid-seventeenth century—Eastern Europe.
Kalvinka Maybus, now a major in the Sacred Knights Brigade, has made quite a name for himself in recent years. Anchored by Rett Butler, Maybus' company has nearly eradicated all lawless activity in the region. But what at first seems like a routine baby-sitting assignment turns deadly when the beautiful Lilith Serving is kidnapped by a band of cutthroats. With nearly the entire platoon decimated and Rett miles away, it seems that all hope of rescuing Lady Lilith is lost. That is, until the vampire Deshwitat enters the fray.
In a fierce battle atop a speeding carriage, Deshwitat defeats the savage bandit leader, To-Kar, mere seconds before the carriage plunges into a massive ravine. In an amazing display of power, Deshwitat manages to save both of their lives. Later while taking shelter in a nearby cave, Deshwitat makes the startling discovery that Lilith is actually the girl who extended a hand of kindness to him so many years ago.
Now, as she bathes herself near a stream in the late afternoon sun, Lilith is discovered by Kal and Rett...as well as the rest of To-Kar's demonic clan.

REBIRTH

Vol 9

CHAPTER 34 AGAINST ALL ODDS 11
CHAPTER 35 LIFE OR DEATH 57
CHAPTER 36 DARK CINDERELLA 101
CHAPTER 37 VERKADH 149
AUTHOR'S FREE TALK 179

CHAPTER 34
AGAINST ALL ODDS


조글
조글
조글
조글
.....
AN HOUR... MAYBE LESS FOR THE SUN TO SET
IT FEELS LIKE AN ETERNITY THOUGH...
..DAMMIT!

?!
WH-WHO THE DEVIL?!
NOT QUITE BUT I ACCEPT THE COMPLIMENT AND IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN
EHEH
...IT LOOKS LIKE I HAVE RETT "THE HELLRAISER" BUTLER TO THANK FOR COLLECTING MY BOUNTY!
SIGNAL THE OTHERS- I'VE FOUND THE WENCH!
YES, CHIEF!

AAAH! GOT HER! ♡

MY BROTHERS WILL SOON BE HERE
NOW... HAND THE BITCH OVER, BUTLER.
NO--!!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "RUN"? WHAT ARE YOU DOING, RETT?
KAL, TAKE THE GIRL AND RUN... NOW!
JUST BUYING US A LITTLE TIME. DON'T WORRY. I'LL BE RIGHT BEHIND YOU
WISHFUL THINKING, DOG-MEAT.

DIE!!
STEP UP, YOU CURS!
AIEE!!
GAAHH!!
UHK--!
AHH!
FACE MY BROAD-SWORD...
...AND REAP THE--

WHIRL
WIND!

DEAR LORD! NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I SEE IT...
...WATCHING RETT IN BATTLE FILLS ME WITH AWE AND HORROR!
...HUFF...! DAMMIT
...?
THOSE SOLDIERS... JUST A DISTRACT--
HA HA HA! RIGHT YOU ARE, BUTLER!
AAAH!
BESIDES, I WANTED TO WITNESS THOSE LEGENDARY SKILLS FIRST HAND
IMPRESSIVE BUT AGAINST ME AND MY CLAN... USELESS
MISS LILITH?!
BUT THIS ONE... ABSOLUTELY DELICIOUS!
OOOOH... LET ME HAVE JUST A LITTLE TASTE. AAAHH!
AHHH! STOP IT YOU MONSTER!!!

I'M BEGINNING TO THINK WE MAY BE IN A BIT OF TROUBLE HERE, KAL.
WE CAN EITHER FIGHT AND DIE LIKE MEN, OR WE DO THE SMART THING AND SAVE OUR SKINS
RETT--YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS?!
WE CAN DEFEAT HIM!
"WE"? LOOK LAD--I'VE LIVED LONG ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT THERE'S A TIME TO SWING YOUR SWORD...
...AND A TIME TO SAVE YOUR ARSE.
NOW I'M SIZING UP THIS UGLY BLOKE AND I'D SAY...
...I'VE GOT A 50-50 CHANCE OF TAKING HIM.
WELL AT LEAST THERE'S A CHANCE RETT.
IT'S WORTH A TRY, ISN'T IT?
WELL... IT MIGHT BE...
...BUT THE PROBLEM IS...

...WE'VE GOT FIVE MORE OF THESE FILTHY BASTARDS RIGHT BEHIND US.
HATE TO BE THE ONE TO SAY IT, KAL, BUT...WE'RE BUGGERED.

AIIEE!!
AAH-- MY KIN HAVE ARRIVED!
LOOK, BROTHERS! I HAVE OUR PRIZE!
HEH EH EH... WELL DONE, BROTHER.
BLOODY GREAT. THE SWAMP CLAN.
WHAT WAS THAT?
DURING MY LESS REPUTABLE YEARS, I HEARD A LOT OF RUMORS ABOUT A CLAN IN THE NORTHERN SWAMPS AN UNSAVORY LOT, TO BE SURE...
...RAPING, PLUNDERING, MURDERING AND SUCH. THEIR SCHEME OF CHOICE, AS YOU MIGHT GUESS, IS KIDNAPPING THE HEIRS OF WEALTHY FAMILIES.

THEY DEMAND A RANSOM, THEN DEMAND MORE AND MORE, BEFORE FINALLY DELIVERING--
THE LIFELESS BODY--AND HEAD... SEPARATELY.
NO--!
I - I WON'T--
YOU WON'T WHAT, BLONDIE?! THINK YUR GONNA STOP MY FAMILY FROM EARNIN' A DECENT LIVIN'?
HAR HAR HAR HAR!
OH MY, LOOK AT GOLDIELOCKS! SCRUMPTIOUS! ♡
LISTEN, KAL...THE IMPORTANT THING TO KNOW ABOUT...

...THESE FREAKS IS...
...THEY'RE NOT HUMAN.
I ALWAYS THOUGHT IT WAS JUST A WIVES' TALE THEY'D COOKED UP TO SCARE THE LOCALS...
...BUT NOTHING THAT STINKS THAT BAD COULD BE HUMAN
I'M SORRY ABOUT THE LASS, [illegible]...BUT WE HAVEN'T GOT A CHANCE IN HELL.
RUN!
WE DON'T ALL NEED TO DIE! ALL THEY WANT IS ME!
SHUT YOUR FACE SOW!
RUN--WHILE YOU STILL CAN!
RETT'S RIGHT, MAJOR! PLEASE--SAVE YOURSELVES!
I'M NOT AFRAID, REALLY! YOU MUST SAVE YOURSELVES--GO!

YOU BITCH! SHUT YOUR YAPPING MOUTH!!
AAAHH!
P-PLEASE, M-MAJOR...
PLEASE... RUN...
I'VE LIVED THIS LONG BY KNOWING WHEN THE ODDS ARE STACKED AGAINST ME.
KAL, I MAY NOT BE THE SMARTEST BLOKE AROUND... BUT I'M A PRACTICAL MAN.
...BUT TODAY I'M MAKING AN EXCEPTION!
ODDS OR NO...I'LL CUT THESE PIGS IN TWO!
YES, RETT!!
BAST--!!
NOT SO FAST, SIR LANCELOT... YOU NEED TO LAY DOWN A BIT.
HUH? WHAT ARE YOU--?
!!
SORRY, MAJOR BUT SOMEONE NEEDS TO TELL MY TALE OF SELFLESS HEROISM
R-RETT... NO...
SEE YOU SOON!
IN THIS LIFE OR THE NEXT.

ALL RIGHT THEN...
...WHO GETS TO DIE FIRST?
HIM WANT TO FIGHT? HIM IS CRAZY
OH, SO BRAVE AND HANDSOME TOO!
I LIKE HIM!!
SO I GET TO KILL HIM!
ALMOST SEEMS A WASTE SUCH A VIRILE SPECIMEN
AND YET...
KURG?!
I DO SO LOVE TO SEE THE STRONG ONES DIE!

KAFF!!
T-TOO S-STRONG FOR YOU TO K-KILL... FREAK...
귀양
FREAK?!
I'M MORE THAN ENOUGH TO HANDLE YOU, WORM
NOW THAT HURTS! I'M JUST GLAD THAT NO ONE'S... ♡
TRIED TO CUT IN ON OUR LITTLE DANCE
콰
WHAT ARE YOU YAPPING ABOUT?
AHK?!
NOW I ASK YOU...
...IS THAT ANY WAY TO TREAT A LADY?!
콰
휙
LADY? AS I RECALL, IT'S THE "SIX BROTHERS OF THE SWAMP CLAN."
TRUTH BE TOLD, YOU'VE A RIGHT LOVELY BODY FOR A BLOKE...
...BUT I'M NO DANDY!!
샤아아

MY DANCE CARD IS OPEN, BOYS.
NOW WHAT SAY WE HAVE A PROPER ROW, EH?
WELL...?
KEE KEE KEE...
HUH HUH
HEH HEH
HA! FOOL!
212
WHA--?!
ARGH!!
OOF!
HE HE HE... YOU RUDE LITTLE TOAD!
DID YOU THINK A MERE BLADE COULD KILL ME?
KA - KAFF... DAMNIT!

URK?!
BROTHERS! I'VE BEEN SLANDERED AND INSULTED!
HE'S STILL MY KILL, YES?
HA! OF COURSE!
UH... I STILL GET FIRST DIBS ON DA WENCH, RIGHT?
I ONLY WANT TO PLAY WITH THIS ONE, BROTHERS ♡
GHAAA!!
OH, DO KITTEN'S CLAWS HURT, LITTLE MOUSE? ♡
I PROMISE, IT ONLY HURTS IN THE BEGINNING. AFTER AWHILE, YOU WON'T FEEL A THING ♡

THAT'S A BEAUTIFUL SUNSET. TOO BAD IT'LL BE MY LAST.
HA! MOPING OVER A SUNSET...IT MUST BE TIME TO DIE.
COUGH~ SORRY, KAL...
...I GAVE IT MY ~COUGH~ BEST.
Kob
HURG?!
EH?! WHAT THE--?
AHP!

ACT 8

OH BLOODY HELL!
DAT'S HIM, BROTHERS! DAT'S DA BLOOD-SUCKER!!
BASTARD! CUT MY THROAT TWICE IN ONE DAY?!
EH?!
LET'S MAKE IT THREE
WOO HOO HOO WELL I'LL BE DAMNED IF KAL WASN'T RIGHT ABOUT YOU.
WHO'D BELIEVE IT?
AREN'T YOU DEAD, YET?
I WAS CATCHING MY BREATH!

STILL, I NEARLY DROPPED DEAD TO SEE A CHIVALROUS VAMPIRE.
BAH! CHIVALRY... ANOTHER MEANINGLESS HUMAN WORD.
WHAT THEN...WHY HELP US?
I...
휘이이잉
AH...SO THAT'S IT! FELL FOR THE LASSY, DID'YA?
OOH HOO HOO HOO
OOF!
WHA... WHAT THE BLOODY HELL?!
SHUT YOUR MAW, OR YOU DIE FIRST

HSSS!!
WELL, WHATEVER THE REASON..
...I'M GLAD YOU'RE ON OUR SIDE, MATE.
ONLY TEMPORARILY... I ASSURE YOU.

HEH
HEH HEH HEH
HEH HEH HEH!
HA HA HA HA HA!
AH-- WHAT AN ENTERTAINING COUPLE YOU MAKE! DID YOU REALLY THINK THAT THIS PARASITE WOULD SAVE YOU ONCE NIGHT FELL?
WE ARE THE SWAMP CLAN-- BIRTHED IN THE BOWELS OF HELL!
HRAH!
YES! GREAT SPORT INDEED!
EK
TELL ME, VAMPIRE-- DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU'RE
THE ONLY ONE WHO GROWS STRONGER AFTER DARK?
THE ONLY ONE TO SUCKLE FROM THE BOSOM OF MOTHER NIGHT?
WE MAY RETAIN OUR HUMAN FORMS IN THE LIGHT OF DAY
WHAT'S HE ON ABOUT?
...BUT AT NIGHT...
...OUR TRUE SELVES MAY BE REVEALED!
TO ME, MY BROTHERS!

WHAT IN GOD'S NAME ARE THEY TURNING INTO?!
YOUR GOD HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT, FOOL!
THEIRS IS THE ENERGY OF PURE, UNDILUTED EVIL!
AHH!
AHH!

Swamp Clan Incarnation
Kalkathion
Hydra-like manifestation of the putrid waste from the bowels of Hell. Each brother occupies a hydra head. This demon is protected by a nearly indestructible armor, thick hide and armed with razor sharp talons and horns.

SO, VAMPIRE.. ANY IDEAS ON HOW WE KILL THIS BEASTY?
I'M AFRAID NOT, HUMAN.
WELL THAT'S IT THEN EH?
NOW'S AS GOOD A TIME AS ANY BESIDES
...NO ONE LIVES FOREVER

CHAPTER 35:
LIFE OR DEATH
HERE... THEY... COME!
LOOK OUT!!

KAFF-- THEY LIKE TO START THINGS OFF WITH A BANG ALL RIGHT.
HOW YOU HOLDING UP, VAMPIRE?
THAT'S NONE OF YOUR CONCERN.
WHOOP

HAR HAR HAR HAR! PATHETIC WRETCHES!
WHERE IS YOUR BRAVADO NOW?!
OOOH
LILITH...
하아-
하아-
I'D WAGER THAT THEIR ONLY WEAK SPOTS WOULD BE THEIR HEADS.
BUT WITH SIX OF THOSE UGLY GOBS...
...IT'S HARDLY A REAL WEAKNESS, NOW IS IT?
WE GO FOR ONE AND THE OTHERS'LL BE ON OUR ARSES, SURE AS- -
SILENCE! THEN WE WILL CREATE A WEAKNESS!
UH?!
USING MY POWERS, I'LL CREATE A MASSIVE FLASH OF LIGHT, SO BE PREPARED
HOPEFULLY, THEY'LL BE MOMENTARILY BLINDED THAT'S WHEN WE STRIKE
NOW THAT'S USING YOUR HEAD, LAD!
I'M SO GLAD YOU APPROVE.
HRARR!!

HAR HAR HAR! Look AT THEM!
LIKE MOTHS JUMPING INTO THE FLAMES!!
BUT WHO IS THE FLAME?
NOW, HUMAN!!
AHH— OUR EYES!!
AH!

THAT'S IT, DESHWITA!
LET'S MOVE!
C'MERE, YOU--
ARGH
SURPRISE.
DID YOU REALLY THINK YOUR LITTLE PARLOR TRICK WOULD WORK?
NOT A SCRATCH?!
DIE, WORM!!
OOF!
AAAAHH!!

DAMNIT!
Deshwitar realizes his error, too late...
ARGH!!
RUNG MY BELL GOOD
UH, OHHH...
HOOOFF!!
HAR HAR HAR... THIS IS SUCH FUN!
BUT ALL GOOD THINGS MUST END!
YOUR VALOR IS SOMEHOW SADLY ENDEARING
AND SO WE LEAVE HIM WITH...
...A PASSIONATE GOODBYE KISS!!
DEMON'S KISS!!
OH-- NOT GOOD!
GET DOWN!!
WH-WHAT?!

AHH!!
HHRR...!
HHR... AHK!
DE-DESHWITAT!!
UH... URG...!!
BUT... WHY...?
DON'T MISUNDERSTAND! IT'S ONLY BECAUSE I STILL NEED YOU...
YOU'RE FAST...BUT YOU'RE STILL ONLY -KAFF- HUMAN...THAT BLAST WOULD HAVE KILLED YOU
I, ON THE OTHER HAND...
...HAVE A SLIGHTLY MORE...
RESILIENT CONSTITUTION
I CAN RECOVER FROM MOST PHYSICAL DAMAGE..
...UP TO A POINT.
BEING THE UNDEAD HAS ITS ADVANTAGES

BUT I DOUBT I COULD SURVIVE ANOTHER HIT LIKE THAT...
WHATEVER THE REASON...
ENOUGH!
KEEP YOUR MIND ON STAYING ALIVE, FOOL!
STAYING ALIVE, EH?
...SO KEEP YOUR HEAD DOWN!
...YOU HAVE MY THANKS.
NOW THAT YOU...
...MENTION IT...
...IT SOUNDS LIKE A DAMN GOOD IDEA!
ARH!
OOOHH...
AH OWW...

쾅
콰쾅
번뜩
RE... RETT?!
벌떡
WH- WHAT HAPPENED?
WAIT! I REMEMBER... RETT...
SORRY KALUTIA, BUT SOME ONE NEEDS TO TELL MY FRIEND OF SELFLESS HEROISM.
SEE YOU SOON!
휙
DAMNIT! RETT WAS PROBABLY RIGHT, THOUGH...
...I WOULD HAVE JUST BEEN IN THE WAY...
휴아아아

MY FATHER WAS RIGHT... I AM PATHETIC...
...AND WEAK.
빠드득
쾅
NO! I DON'T ACCEPT THAT!
I CAN AT LEAST TRY TO HELP THEM!

RETT AND... DESHWITAT?!
AND WHAT IN GOD'S NAME IS...?!

KYAAHR!
URG!!
AAH!
DIE!
DIE!
DIE!
OOF!
HU-HUFF--
HUFF-
HU-HUFF--
HU-
HU-HUFF-
DAMN... DAMN IT!
VAMPIRE! YOU'RE NOT LOOKING SO GOOD!
GO TO HELL!
!!
WELL, YOU'RE A LITTLE GREEN AROUND THE GILLS, LAD!
WHEN'S THE LAST TIME YOU ATE?!
WAIT A MINUTE! THAT'S IT..THE BLOOD-SUCKER HASN'T EATEN!
IF I RECALL, VAMPIRES NEED A STEADY SUPPLY OF THE RED STUFF...
AND IT DIDN'T LOOK AS THOUGH HE'D TOUCHED THE GIRL...
WELL I'LL BE... A NOBLE VAMPIRE, EH?
CAN YOU GET TO YOUR FEET?!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT...

I MAY HAVE MISJUDGED YOU, VAMPIRE. WATCHING OVER THE LASS...
...AND NOT EVEN TAKING A BITE.
I'M NOT INTERESTED IN YOUR OPINION OF ME, HUMAN
휘이이익
DESHWITAT, IF YOU NEED BLOOD, TAKE MINE

HIDE FROM US, WILL YOU?!
휘이이익

WHAT?!
I'M NOT SAYING I'LL LET YOU SUCKLE MY NECK OR ANYTHING! I'LL MAKE A WEE CUT AND YOU HAVE A TASTE.
NOW IT MAY BE A BIT ROBUST FOR YOUR PALATE, BUT I'LL WAGER IT'LL GIVE YOU A GOOD KICK IN THE BRITCHES, EH?
STOP BLATHERING! DO YOU REALLY THINK A FEW DROPS WILL SATISFY MY NEED?!
FINE, FINE! DRINK YER FILL, YA BLOODTHIRSTY DEMON! I'M BIG I CAN-

DESHWITAT!
UGH!
HR... HRGH!!
DAMN YOU!!
YOU CANNOT DAMN THE DAMNED FOOL!

M-MUST GET UP... BUT MY LIMBS... WON'T MOVE...
COUGH!!
COUGH!!
KALUTIKA...
...IS THAT YOU?
DESHWITAT-- YOU'RE ALIVE?!

DESHWITAT YOU CAME TO HELP US..
LAST NIGHT, AND NOW THIS..
THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH--
COUGH!
COUGH!
EASY... TAKE IT EASY NOW.
I THINK I UNDERSTAND NOW.
YOU'RE WEAK...
...AREN'T YOU?
AND I KNOW WHAT YOU NEED...
BUT--?!
AAAHH!

DRINK, DESHWITAT.. DRINK AND REGAIN YOUR STRENGTH
IF THIS IS THE ONLY WAY I CAN BE OF HELP
..THEN SO BE IT. AT LEAST I WILL HAVE DONE SOMETHING.
PITY...
COMPASSION...
ANGER...
FEAR...
WORRY...
HATE...
RANDOM, UNRELATED WORDS... RUNNING THROUGH MY MIND..
THINKING BACK...
...THAT WAS THE MOMENT...
..WHEN SOMETHING INSIDE ME CHANGED.
THE MOMENT WHEN THE WHEELS OF MY DESTRUCTION BEGAN TO TURN.

OH
OH
OH
OH
WHAT THE HELL?!

KAL...
...DID HE--?!
LOOK AFTER YOUR FRIEND HE'S LOST A LOT OF BLOOD.
WHA... ALL RIGHT!
KYAAH!!
...!!
WHA--?! SUCH STRENGTH!
AHK! WE ARE INJURED?!
IMPOSSIBLE!! HOW COULD HE?!

AIIEE!!
THIS CAN'T BE!

KYAA!!
DEAR GOD! I NEVER KNEW HOW POWERFUL HE WAS!
NO...WAIT! I'VE FOUGHT HIM BEFORE! HIS POWER WASN'T EVEN A TENTH OF THAT!
HOW COULD HE HAVE GAINED SO MUCH POWER SO QUICKLY?!
OHH... OHH...
MR.. RUDBICH?!
OH... YOU'RE AWAKE?
YOU KNOW...
...THIS IS THE...
...THIRD TIME...
...YOU'VE SAVED MY LIFE.
LET'S NOT MAKE A HABIT OF IT, SHALL WE?
HOLD TIGHT, NOW.
I SAW IT, BUT I DON'T BELIEVE IT!

WHERE DID THAT POWER COME FROM?!
WHO!
DON'T ASK ME. I'M NOT SURE MYSELF...
KALUTIKA...
VA--
VAMP--
VAMPIRE... PLEASE...
BLAST! IT'S STILL ALIVE!
PLEASE ! WE MEAN you No HARM. WE ARE DYING!
WE WOULD ONLY ASK SOMETHING OF THE DARK ONE
IS IT... REFERRING TO ME?
I'VE NO INTEREST IN YOUR PLEAS FOR MERCY GROTESQUERIE
WAIT— PLEASE! HEAR US OUT!
WE HAVE MUCH TO OFFER! POWER— GREAT POWER FOR YOU!
POWER?
YES, POWER! YOU HAVE DESTROYED! IS IT TRUE... SOON WE WILL BE NO MORE...
WE OFFER YOU OUR LIFE-FORCE ALL OF OUR ENERGY WILL BE SUBORDINATE TO YOUR WILL

MONSTER! YOU THINK THAT I WOULD SPARE YOUR LIFE?!
No--No! WE WILL DIE... IT IS UNAVOIDABLE!
...BANISHED... ADRIFT IN THE ETHER...
WE SPEAK OF A METAPHYSICAL SYMBIOTIC RELATIONSHIP! A MASTER-SLAVE CONTRACT!
WE WOULD NO LONGER EXIST WITHIN THIS EARTHLY REALM
ONLY OUR ESSENCE-- OUR POWER WOULD SURVIVE AND IT WOULD BE YOURS TO CONTROL!
WE WOULD BE FOREVER EXILED...
BUT IT IS PREFERABLE TO BEING ERASED FROM ALL EXISTENCE!
I DON'T CA--
UH... MR. RUDBICH, IF I MAY...
I'M NOT TERRIBLY SURE THAT I UNDERSTAND ALL OF THIS, BUT..
...EVIL AS THEY ARE...THEY ARE DYING. IF THEY CAN AVOID YOU WITHOUT CAUSING HARM...PERHAPS YOU SHOULD RECONSIDER.
WELL...
HOW DOES THIS WORK?
IS CHILD'S PLAY, DARK ONE!
SIMPLY REPEAT HAVING DESTROYED THIS DEMON, I NOW BIND ITS ESSENCE TO MY WILL!
HAVING DESTROYED THIS DEMON, I NOW BIND ITS ESSENCE TO MY WILL!
THANK YOU DARK MASTER!
WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT, MASTER...
...WE WILL HEED YOUR CALL!

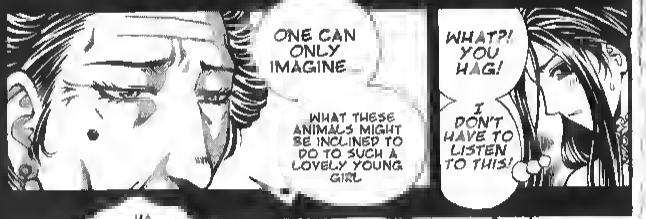
WELL, I GUESS THAT'S IT, THEN!
FOR NOW...
휘이이잉
AND WHAT OF YOU, EH? WILL YOU BE COMING BACK WITH US?
I THINK NOT I PREFER TO TRAVEL ALONE
휙
멈칫
BUT WAIT...THERE IS SOMETHING YOU SHOULD KNOW...
두벅
두벅
YOUR FRIEND, KALUTIKA...
...IS NOT HUMAN!
WH-WHAT?!
WHAT IN BLUE BLAZES--?!
휙
휘이이잉-

AH HE'S GONE!
AND I NEVER THANKED HIM!
.....
HE'S A STRANGE ONE, TO BE SURE, LASS. COMES AND GOES LIKE THE WIND.
BUT I THINK...
...YOU'LL BE SEEING HIM AGAIN.

CHAPTER 36: DARK CINDERELLA

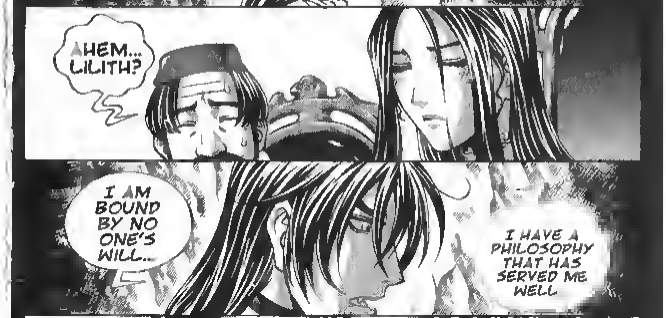
HA HA HA... HOW AMUSING!
HA HA HA HA!!
I MUST SAY, YOUR DAUGHTER IS EVEN MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN I HAD HEARD!
ANY MAN WOULD BE PROUD TO HAVE HER AS A DAUGHTER-IN-LAW
YOU ARE TOO KIND, SIR. BUT LILITH IS FAR FROM PERFECT.
NOW YOUR SON, LORD REUTERS... SUCH A STRAPPING YOUNG MAN!
AM I RIGHT LILITH?
HM? OH... YES
PLEASE FORGIVE HER SHYNESS
OH, WE THINK SHE'S LOVELY!
HEH
HA-AH
HA-AH
HEH
HEH HEH

NOW THEN, LORD REUTERS...
SHOULD WE FORMALLY SET THE WEDDING DATE?
AHEM.. BEFORE WE DO...
WE WERE ALL SO RELIEVED TO LEARN OF MISS LILITH'S SAFE RETURN...
...FROM SUCH AN ORDEAL...


ONE CAN ONLY IMAGINE...
WHAT THESE ANIMALS MIGHT BE INCLINED TO DO TO SUCH A LOVELY YOUNG GIRL
WHAT?! YOU HAG!
I DON'T HAVE TO LISTEN TO THIS!

HA HA HA... YES, ONE CAN ONLY IMAGINE BUT THANK GOD SHE WAS RESCUED WITHIN MINUTES, SO THERE WAS NEVER ANY...
IF YOU PLEASE!
I WOULD LIKE TO HEAR IT FROM THE GIRL.

OF COURSE..
LILITH PLEASE, PUT THEIR MINDS AT EASE
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO DO IT, THEN DON'T


AHEM... LILITH?
I AM BOUND BY NO ONE'S WILL...
I HAVE A PHILOSOPHY THAT HAS SERVED ME WELL

UM... LILITH?
TELL THE GOOD PEOPLE...
ONE SHAPES ONE'S OWN DESTINY!
NO MATTER WHAT THE PRICE

I... LOVED♡ IT.
OOOH!
THEIR LEADER... AAH, WHAT A HANDSOME BRUTE!
OH, THE THINGS HE SHOWED ME! ♡
IT FELT SOOOO GOOD!
NOW MIND YOU...♡
...HE WAS A BIT ROUGH AT FIRST, BUT....
...AFTER THE FIFTH OR SIXTH TIME...
...I WAS ABSOLUTELY BEGGING FOR IT.
WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO SHOW YOU? ♡

.....
LI-
LI-
EEP!
CONSIDER OUR ARRANGEMENT TERMINATED.. GOOD DAY!
OW! BUT MOTHER ..!
NO! WAIT-- PLEASE!
넬
넬
빡
TEE HEE!♡
OOH...
OH, DEAR! THAT DIDN'T GO WELL AT ALL, DID IT?
#※♬&!
@#%-!!!
SAD. .AND I DID LIKE HIM SO.
I'LL BE IN MY CHAMBERS..
STOP RIGHT THERE!

WERE YOU, WERE YOU TELLING THE TRUTH?
WHAT YOU SAID... ABOUT THOSE... SAVAGES?
OH, THAT?
"OH, THAT"?! "OH, THAT"?!
WHAT DID YOU DO?!
ROCK-
PAPER-
SCISSORS!
THAT WAS ALL.
WHAT?!
HEE HEE
FUN, ISN'T IT? YOU SHOULD TRY IT.
IT HURTS AT FIRST BUT THEN IT'S QUITE FUN!♡
OH, AND...
OUCH!!
EVEN THOUGH THE WEDDING IS OFF, YOU STILL OWE ME A FABULOUS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION!
I HAVE SOME SPECIAL GUESTS I WISH TO INVITE.
LOVE YOU!
.....
UH-
ROCK-
PAPER-
SCISSORS!
OUCH!!

NEIGH!
DESHWITAT! IT'S ME! KALUTIKA!
IF YOU'RE OUT THERE, I WISH TO SPEAK WITH YOU!
HEW

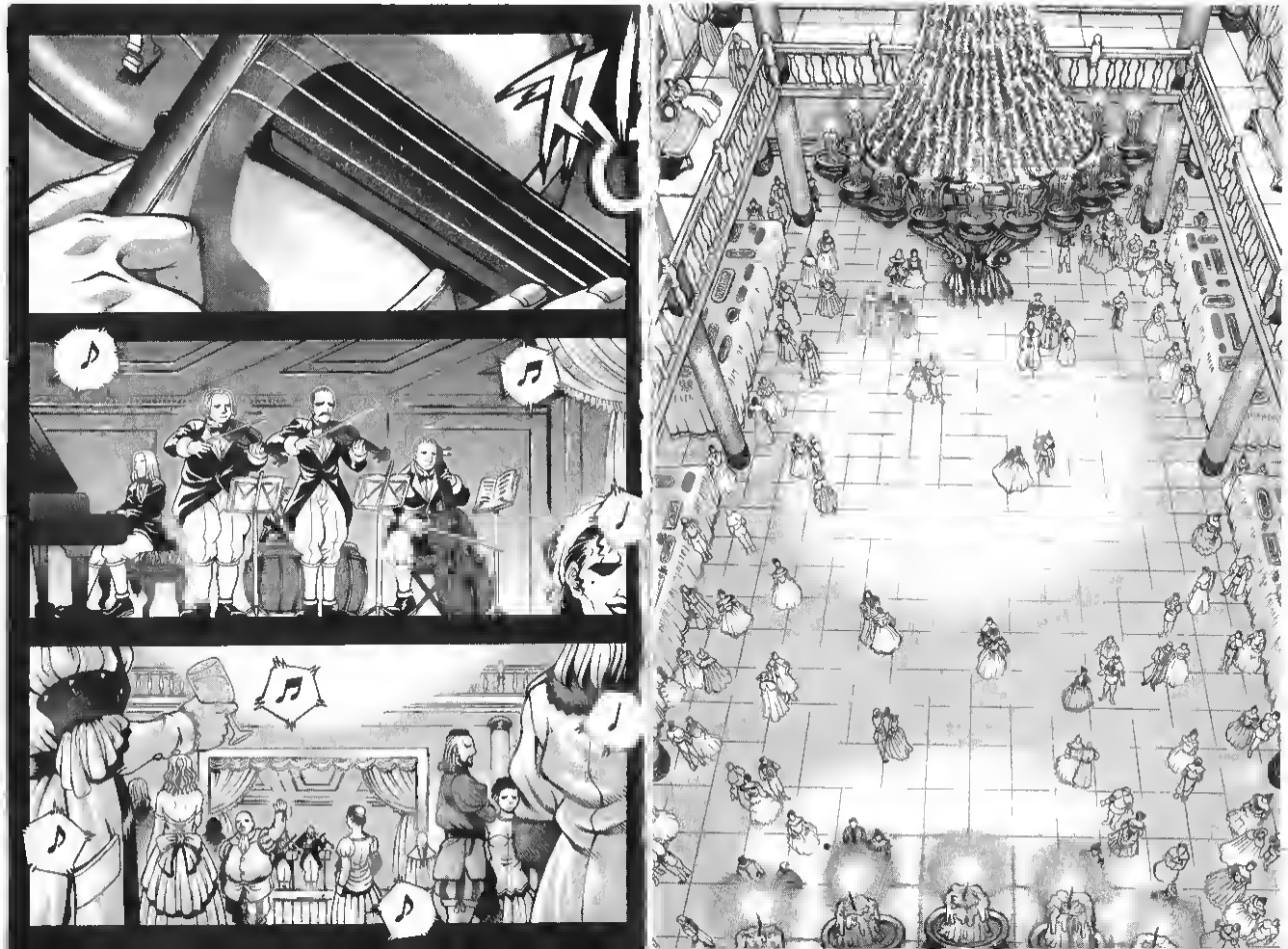
HELLO
HELLO
HELLO
ELLO
ELLO
LO
DESHWITAT
WITAT
TAT
TAT
TAT
IS THAT YOU?
DESHWITAT!
.....
RETT HAS BEEN WATCHING ME LIKE A MOTHER HEN! I BARELY MANAGED TO GET OUT!
I KNOW HE SEEMS LIKE A BOORISH LOUT. BUT HE'S A GOOD LOYAL FRIEND.

JUDGING FROM THE SILENCE, I TAKE IT YOU DON'T WISH TO TALK.
BUT I THINK YOU'RE OUT THERE... SO JUST LISTEN.
THAT'S TWICE NOW...
THAT YOU'VE SWEPT IN LIKE THE WIND!
OUCH!
ANYWAY...

I CAME HERE TO THANK YOU...
I KNOW, YOU DON'T WANT TO HEAR THIS, BUT...
...I OWE YOU MY LIFE!
DESHWITAT...
...I CAN NEVER REPAY YOU.

AH! THIS CAME TODAY...
IT'S AN INVITATION.
IT'S FROM MISS LILITH.
SHE HAS REQUESTED OUR PRESENCE AT HER BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION!
AND YOUR NAME IS LARGER THAN OURS!
HA HA... RETT SAYS IT APPEARS THAT HE AND I WERE MERELY AFTERTHOUGHTS!
OH, YES. I HAVE SOMETHING ELSE...
...SOME CLOTHES FOR THE OCCASION.
A GIFT FROM MY SISTER
DANUBE HAS SUCH A KIND HEART.
THE INVITATION AND CLOTHES... I SHALL LEAVE THEM HERE.

I'LL BE OFF, NOW.
RETT IS BOUND TO GET BLUSTERY IF HE FINDS ME GONE
I HOPE YOU WILL CONSIDER ATTENDING MISS LILITH'S PARTY
IF YOU DON'T, SHE'LL BE CRESTFALLEN DESHWITAT
AND WE WOULDN'T WANT THAT, EH?
HYAA!
EH
IT IS LARGER...

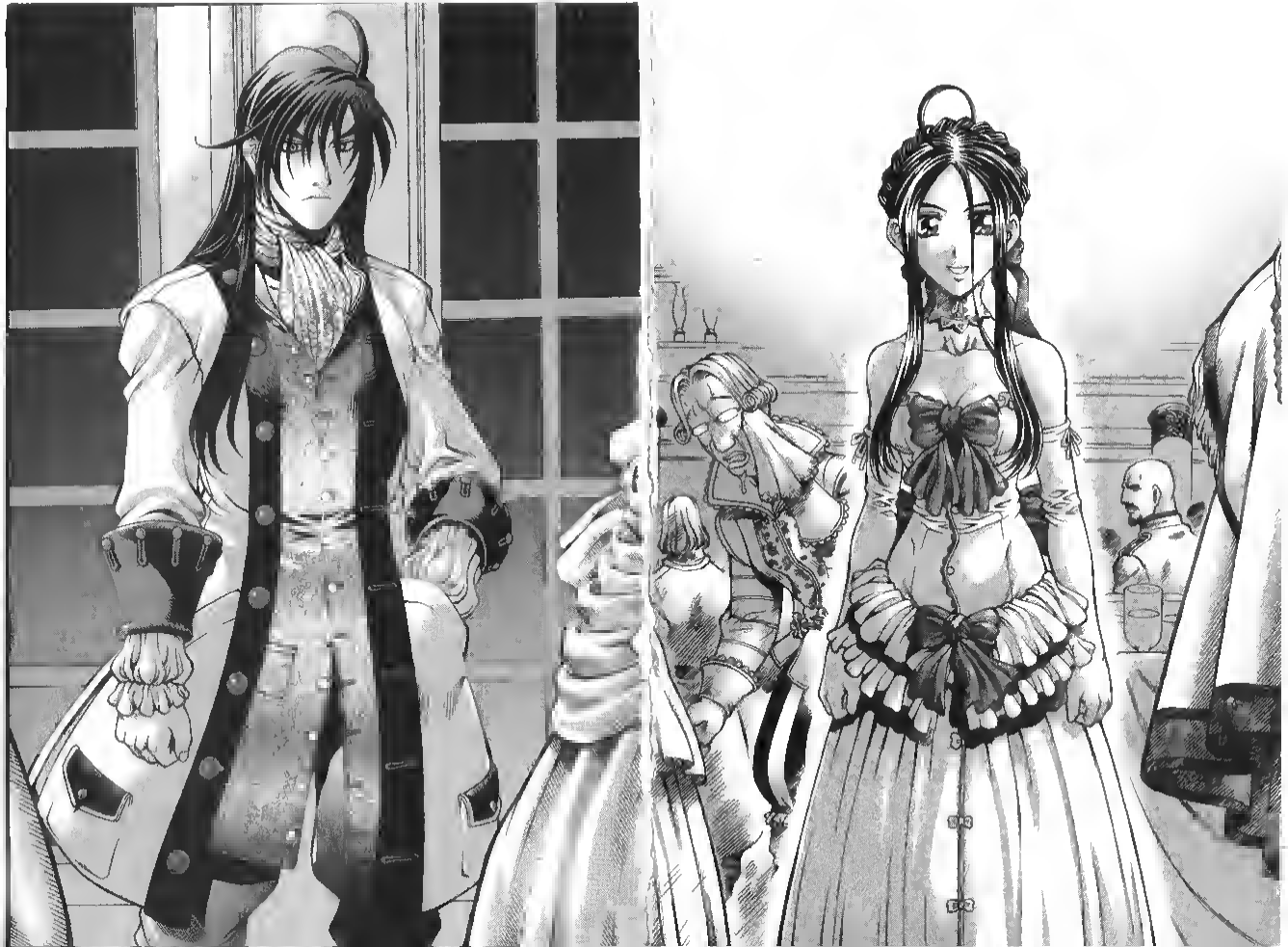


HAPPY BIRTHDAY MISS LILITH MAY I HAVE THIS DANCE?
샥
AH I'M SORRY.. I M VERY TIRED
NO THANK OU'
OH!
PARDON ME.
타닷
WELL... I...
I'M SUCH A FOOL...
QUITE FAST FOR BEING SO TIRED..

MAJOR MAYBUS! SERGEANT BUTLER!
CHOMP
CHOMP
CHOMP
CHOMP
AH--MISS LILITH!
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DEAR LADY!
OH
OH
YES. UH, THANK YOU FOR THE INVITATION
ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MY SISTER, DANUBE MAYBUS.
NICE TO MEET YOU
MY PLEASURE. I'M LILITH SERVINO.
SHE'S BEAUTIFUL, MAJOR. ♡
HEE HEE...
UM...IS THIS THE ENTIRE GROUP?
OH--DESHWITAT...
THAT CRETIN DOESN'T APPRECIATE YOUR HOSPITALITY, M'LADY--
HEH HEH - WHAT THE SERGEANT MEANS TO SAY IS, HE HAD AN UNEXPECTED ASSIGNMENT!
BUT HE WILL TRY HIS BEST TO ATTEND.
HE HOPES YOU'LL UNDERSTAND.
YES... OF COURSE
.....
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR COMING. PLEASE ENJOY YOURSELVES.
THANK YOU.
NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME... I MUST PLAY THE ROLE OF HOSTESS.

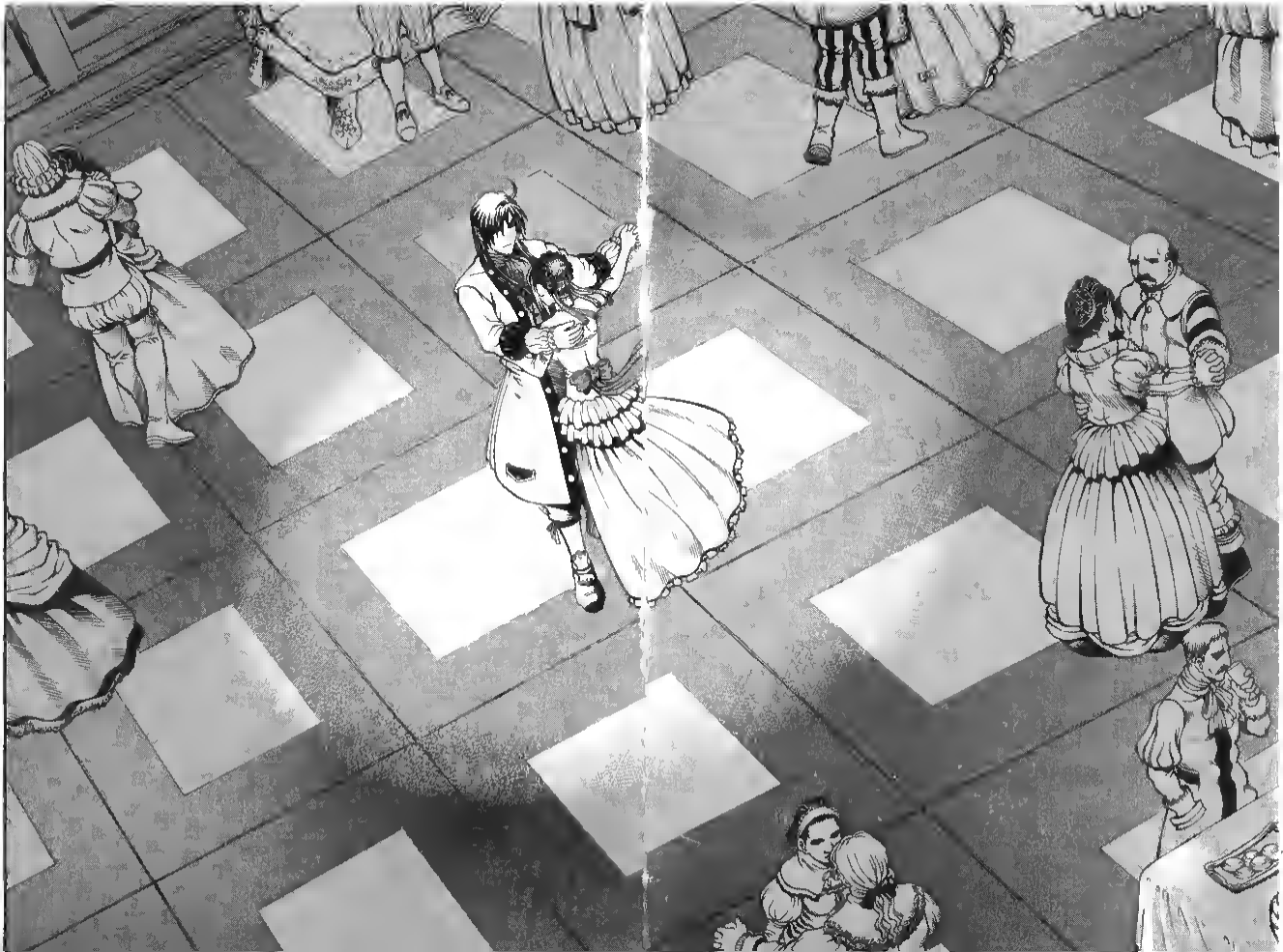
AH-- THERE YOU ARE! COME ALONG, DEAR.
YES, FATHER?
YOU REMEMBER HERBERT SCHLOMBERG, DON'T YOU LILITH?
HE HAS THE MOST AMUSING ANECDOTE!
DO TELL?
IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME.
GHOOF!

121



LI--
LILITH?!
타
타
타
타
타
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
I KNOW...
...I'M LATE.
HOW ABOUT WISHING ME HAPPY BIRTHDAY?
I DON'T HAVE ANY PRESENTS.
AS SUAVE AS EVER, I SEE
AS SAUCY AS EVER, I SEE
HMPH.

HEY!
UH... UM...
NOW WAIT ONE--!
THIS IS THE PENALTY FOR TARDINESS.
TONIGHT YOU DANCE ONLY WITH ME.
DANCE! I'VE NEVER DANCED IN--
ON MY BIRTHDAY... I'M THE QUEEN.
AND A QUEEN'S COMMAND IS ABSOLUTE ♡



L-LILITH I'M SORRY, BUT I'VE JUST REMEMBERED SOMETHING URGENT
WHAT?!
I'M SORRY.
...OH!!
확
.....
탓
탓
탓
탓
탓
탓
탓
DAMN IT!!

쾅
두벅
두벅
두벅
콰르르
탕!!
HURG
HURG
HURG
HURG
HURG

HUFF... HUFF... HUFF... HUFF...
YOU LIVE UNEXPECTEDLY MODESTLY...
MAY WE COME IN...?
PUT MY BLOODY HORSE IN A LATHER, TRYING TO CATCH UP TO YOU!
WHAT ARE--?!
HMPH.
WHY THE ABRUPT DEPARTURE?
MISS LILITH LOOKED STUNNED...

DAMN! AM I SOME INSIPID CHARACTER FROM A CHILD'S FAIRY TALE?!
...HUH?
A PUMPKIN CARRIAGE... THE FINEST CLOTHES...
AND THAT'S IT!
...BUT THEN THE BELL TOLLS.
BACK TO MY MISERABLE EXISTENCE!!
...IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE
DESHWITAT...
MY LIFE WAS DESTROYED BY HUMANS
I'VE KNOWN ONLY TORTURE BY THEIR HANDS.
I KNOW.
I USED TO FEAR THEM.
THEN I HATED THEM.
EVENTUALLY, I PREYED UPON THEM
HA--! HOW COULD YOU KNOW?!
TO SUDDENLY REALIZE
...THAT YOU WISH TO BECOME THAT WHICH YOU MOST DESPISE!!
DESHWITAT!!

YOU ARE AS HUMAN AS ANY MAN I KNOW.
AND THERE'S NO OTHER BLOKE I'D RATHER HAVE BESIDE ME IN A BRAWL!
털썩
HA...
HA HA...
HA HA HA...

KOI
TH-
THA--
THANK..
..YOU
THANK YOU...
...MY...
...FRIEND.

CHAPTER 37.
VERKADH

Four Years Later...
HWA-!
HWA-!
HWA-!
AA-AAHH...
AAAH.
VETKADH OF BLOOD AND DARKNESS, ACCEPT US INTO PARADISE!
YOUR HUMBLE SERVANTS OFFER YOU THIS SACRIFICE!

A SACRIFICE!!
SACRIFICE!!
SACRIFICE!!
HEH HEH... LET THE CEREMONY BEGIN.
SACRIFICE!
YES!
RAH!
AHH-- PLEASE, NO!!
AAHH-- AIEEE!
HWA-!
HWA-!
HWA-!
WHO DARES?!
IT'S THE SACRED KNIGHTS!
EH--?!
WH-WHAT IS THIS?!

RELEASE THE GIRL, YOU GODLESS HEATHENS!
AS AN OFFICER OF THE SACRED KNIGHTS, I CHARGE YOU WITH HERESY!
SURRENDER--- OR BE CUT DOWN WHERE YOU STAND!
BAH! IT IS YOU WHO ARE WITHOUT A GOD, DOG!
DESTROY THE DEFILERS!
SQUAD--- ATTACK! KILL ANY MEMBER WHO RESISTS!
SAVE THE GIRL AT ALL COSTS!
DIE!
AH AH-!!
ARH!
HRAH!
AMAZING...
One week ago, Kalutika Maybus was promoted to Captain
It was in recognition of his systematic dismantling of the abhorrent cults within the region

The success of his efforts has been, to say the least.. impressive.
AH-AAH!
HRA-!
ATTACK-!
GAH-!
AIEE!
UHH-!
Soon, Kalutika's name struck fear into the heart of any cult member.
Although, his success was not achieved alone.
GAH-! HEGH-!
THERE'S NO ROOM TO SWING ME SWORD SIR
IS...
...THAT SO?!
There was one man who had proved to be invaluable to Kalutika
LET ME HAVE A GO!!
Rett Butler.
HU-HAR!
AHK!
KU-URG!
AAARGH!
Swinging his massive broadsword, no man, or men, could stand against him.
Butler was a born leader, and the troops rallied around him in battle.
HYAA!
NOW HAVE AT 'EM, LADS!

AHH-!
NO-! COMPLETE THE SACRIFICE!
THE INFIDELS WILL NOT DETER US!
AIEE-EEE!!
AH-?!
WHA-NO!!
But...there was another...
An ally hidden in shadow!
OHHH!

Deshwitat L. Rudbich.
The ultimate weapon in Captain Maybus' arsenal against evil
.....
His true identity kept a secret from all but a few select officers in the brigade...
WELL DONE, SIR!
THANK YOU!
In return for his otherworldly strength and fighting skills, he was provided...
...with the blood of...
...the vanquished
ABOUT TIME, DESH!
GRRR--! YOU CHARGED THE GATES BEFORE THE SUN HAD SET!
GUESS THEY DIDN'T GET YOUR SCHEDULE!
MUST YOU JEST ABOUT EVERYTHING?!
AHH, QUIT NAGGING! YOU'RE HERE NOW, RIGHT?
HMPH...
NOW LET'S MOP UP THE REST OF THESE FILTHY BUGGERS, EH?
YES...THEY ARE AN UNSIGHTLY LOT, AT THAT.

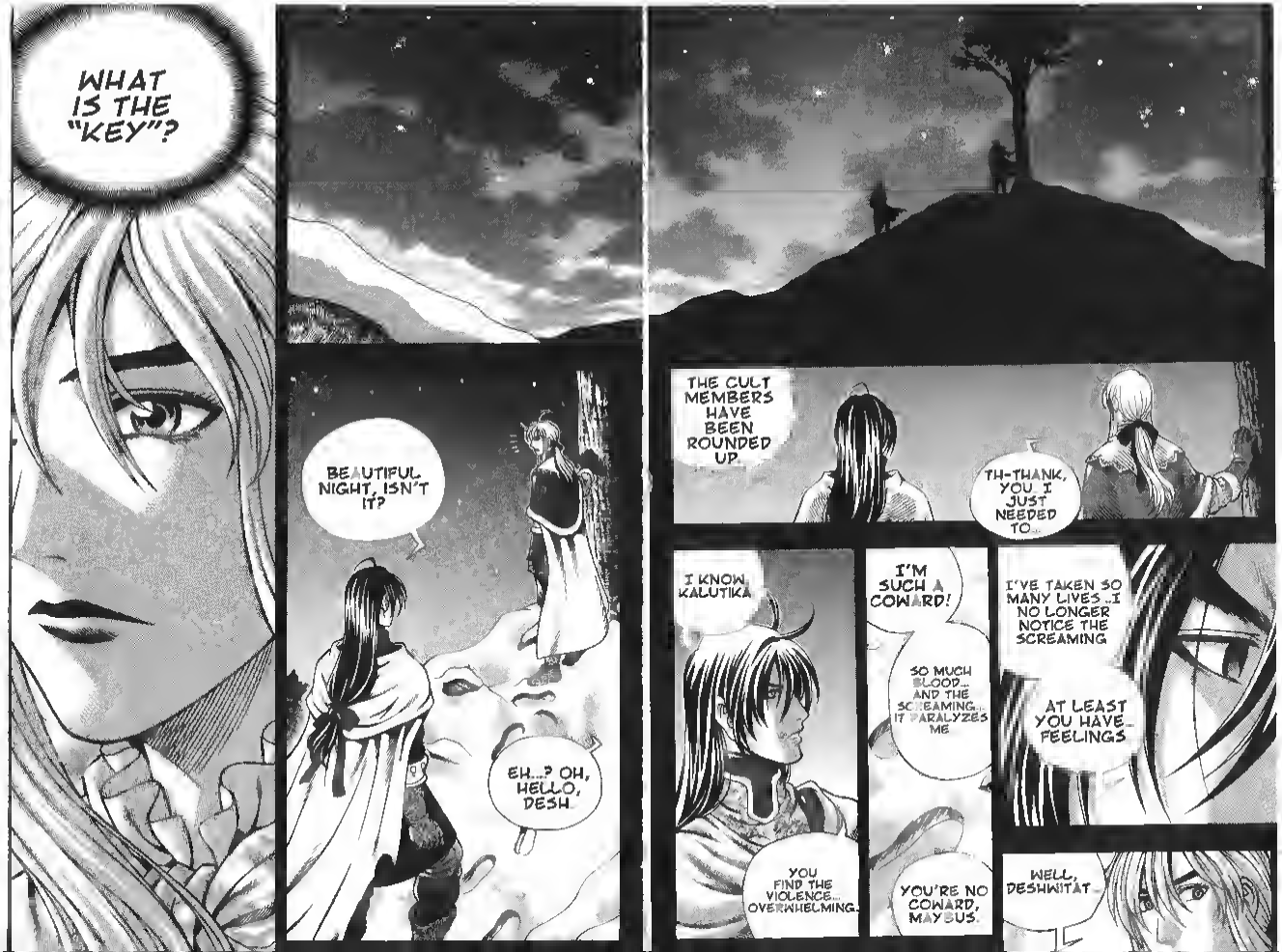
ALL RIGHT, YOU HEATHEN DOGS...TIME TO MEET YOUR MAKER.
COULD... COULD IT BE...THEM?
THE TWO WARRIORS SAID TO HAVE DESTROYED THE OTHER SANCTUARIES OF VERKADH?
STAND YOUR GROUND, FOOLS!
DON'T BELIEVE THEIR LIES!
FIGHT!!
Y-YOU'RE ALL COWARDS!
HOLD THEM BACK! WE SHALL SUMMON JEPON!
BUT SIR! THE DEMON IS UNPREDICTABLE!
SILENCE! WE'VE NO CHOICE!
HE MUST AWAKEN! JEPON, WARRIOR OF OUR DARK GOD, VERKADH!
ARISE, DEMON, AND KILL!!
HMM?!
CAREFUL, RETT! I THINK THEY'RE--
UH?!
AH!

MY GOD!
AOOO

KRAH-!
URK?!

KA...
UHG...
ARE WE QUITE DONE HERE?
WE...
SURRENDER
THAT'S THE LOT OF 'EM SIR! 269 ALL TOLD!
PLUS, 14 YOUNG LADIES! WAITING TO BE SACRIFICED, I IMAGINE.
WELL DONE, LADS! OFF THEY GO, NOW!
AND GET THE WOMEN SOME WARM CLOTHES!
DANIEL STILL SCRIBBLING AWAY I SEE
OFFICER BUTLER... MASTER RUDBICH.
MY JOB IS TO RECORD EVERYTHING
WHERE'S KAL?
OH, HE ASKED TO BE NOTIFIED WHEN YOU WERE DONE
HE... HE NEEDED TO COMPOSE HIMSELF I BELIEVE

HMM... ANOTHER ONE OF HIS SPELLS, EH?
APPARENTLY
DESH, DO YOU MIND?
I'VE SOME LOOSE ENDS TO ATTEND TO
SO, NOW I'M YOUR ERRAND BOY?
AND YOU DANIEL...
WHEN WILL YOU CEASE BEING SO FORMAL WITH ME?
OH... MY APOLOGIES... MASTER RUDBICH
맙소
ARGH-! PLEASE, CALL ME DESHNITAT!
NOT BLOODY LIKELY DESH! HE'S SCARED OF YOU
IT...IT'S DIFFICULT FOR ME...I AM A PRIEST... AND HE'S...
A VAMPIRE? I KNOW, FATHER
BUT HE'S ALSO A MAN.
AH, WELL... HAPPY SCRIBBLING, FATHER
YES, THANK YOU...
...RETT.
TONIGHT WENT WELL, BUT...
...THIS CULT CONTINUES TO GROW AT AN ALARMING RATE
IT'S ALMOST AS IF THEY ARE A PART OF SOME PSYCHIC COLLECTIVE
HEY! STEP LIVELY!
A COLLECTIVE WHOSE SOLE PURPOSE IS TO RESURRECT THE DARK GOD VERKADH
THEY SHARE A FANATICAL BELIEVE THAT VERKADH'S REBIRTH IS IMMINENT
INTERROGATION HAS REVEALED THAT THE "KEY" TO THIS REBIRTH IS AT HAND
WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN...?


WHAT IS THE "KEY"?
BEAUTIFUL NIGHT, ISN'T IT?
EH...? OH, HELLO, DESH.
THE CULT MEMBERS HAVE BEEN ROUNDED UP.
TH-THANK, YOU. I JUST NEEDED TO...
I KNOW, KALUTIKA.
YOU FIND THE VIOLENCE... OVERWHELMING.
I'M SUCH A COWARD!
SO MUCH BLOOD... AND THE SCREAMING... IT PARALYZES ME.
YOU'RE NO COWARD, MAYSUS.
I'VE TAKEN SO MANY LIVES..I NO LONGER NOTICE THE SCREAMING.
AT LEAST YOU HAVE... FEELINGS.
WELL, DESHWITAT.

...WE MAKE QUITE A PAIR
INDEED...
SPEAKING OF FEELINGS, HOW IS MISS LILITH?
ARGHH!
I AM NO LOVER-BOY TO BE MOCKED!
OH, STOP! IT'S OBVIOUS YOU'RE MAD ABOUT THE GIRL!
WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?
I'M STILL NOT HUMAN.
TSK - TSK... DESHWITAT...
SO YOU SAY...
MAY I TAKE IT YOU HAVEN'T TOLD HER?
SIGH... NO.
AND YOU FEAR THAT IF SHE KNEW, SHE WOULD BE HORRIFIED?
...YES.
THE MEASURE OF ONE'S HUMANITY IS IN HOW HUMANE HE IS
AND AS I'VE SAID, YOU ARE MORE HUMANE THAN ANY MAN I KNOW.
ONE DAY YOU WILL OPEN YOURSELF TO HER, DESH
AND LILITH WILL GLADLY ACCEPT YOUR HEART
THANK YOU, KAL.

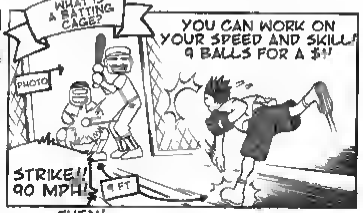
NOW LET'S GO HOME, SHALL WE?
YES.
IT SEEMS THAT FORTUNE HAS SMILED UPON YOU ALL...
MAYBUS... RUDEICH... AND BUTLER.
BUT SOON KALUHKA YOUR DREAMLIKE EXISTENCE WILL BECOME
...A NIGHTMARE.
LA-LA-DE-DA! ♡
...HUH?
OH, IT'S YOU, PICO!
LET ME OPEN THE WINDOW.
EEK-EEK-

WHAT IS IT?
HAVE YOU BROUGHT ME A NOTE?
EEK-EEK!
OOOH!
Dear Lilith — Our work here is done. I will come to see you as soon as possible. Deshwitat
I SEE DESH'S PENMANSHIP HASN'T IMPROVED
OLGA! I HAVE COMPANY ARRIVING LAYOUT A DRESS
THE PRETTIEST ONE!
YES MISS WHO SHALL WE EXPECT?
IT'S A SECRET!
To Be Continued in REBIRTH Volume Two!

CELEBRATING THE COMPLETION AND PUBLICATION OF VOLUME 4!!!

"MAJOR DREAM" VERSION (專情) THAT WRITER'S SITUATION

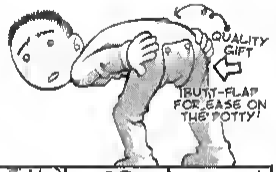
WATCH THE CHINESE CHARACTERS!!!



THIS PICTURE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS STORY LATELY. I'VE BEEN HOOKED ON MEDIEVAL COSTUMES, SO I WANTED TO DRAW A PICTURE WITH THIS KIND OF LOOK!
PRETTY HOT HUH?
HNHH-
THE MAJOR LEAGUES!
LEE, KANG-WOO, FROM KOREA!
DISCOVERING MY HIDDEN TALENTS AT THE BATTING CAGE
98.1 MPH.
BIRTH OF A SUPERSTAR
SPORT CHAMP
FANTASY LAND!
NEEDS A SHAVE.
AND THE RESULT?
SPEED: 98 MPH!
HAS HIT FOURTH IN A ROW
CONTROL: F
MAYBE I SHOULD JUST KEEP MY DAY JOB...

A BIZARRE TALE Y T

17 SPECIAL EDITION



CHARACTERS

① Freedom

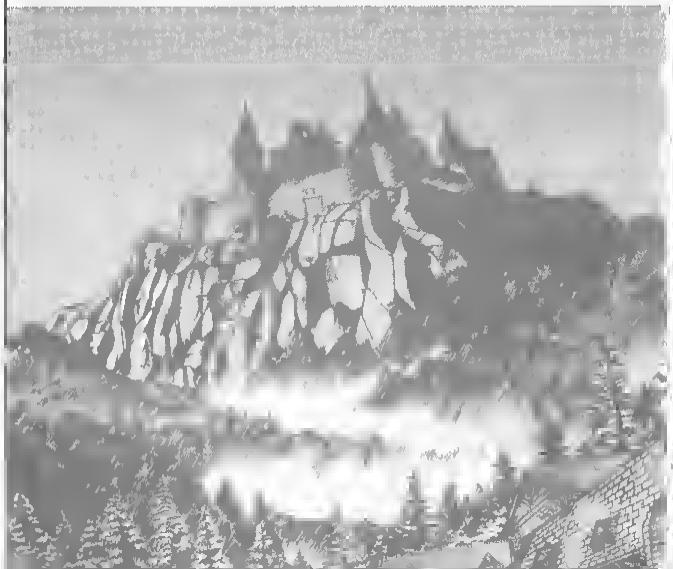
② TALKING IN HIS SLEEP

Free Talk!

RECENTLY, THERE WERE SOME PROTESTS FROM THE READERS, SAYING, "THE PAST VOLUMES ARE TOO BORING. WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO RETURN TO THE PRESENT?" ETC. WELL, I DO WANT TO RETURN TO THE PRESENT SOON--EVEN THOUGH IT THE FUTURE HAS ITS OWN SET OF PROBLEMS--BUT HORSES AND PERIOD COSTUMES (ESPECIALLY DRESSES) CAN BE TOO HARD! A STORY THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE ONLY TWO VOLUMES LONG TOOK ON A LIFE OF ITS OWN AND CONTINUES TO LENGTHEN. BUT HAVING COME THIS FAR, I WILL TAKE CARE TO WRAP THINGS UP AND COME BACK TO THE FUTURE VERY SOON. BE PATIENT--IT'S WORTH IT!

Preview Vol. 10:

In the next earth-shaking installment of Rebirth...
As Deshwitat, Kal and Rett return victorious from their defeat of the Verkadh cult, it would seem that life has finally taken a turn for the better for this eclectic group of comrades. But what of the mysterious hooded figure who's been looming so ominously over the group's proceedings as of late? Could he have some malevolent connection to the mad cleric, Josimov? And if so, what are their plans for the idealistic young captain and his vampire friend?



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AT THE MOMENT OF VICTORY...

Having located the missing Lilith Servino, Kalutika and Rett discover they've got competition...and the odds are stacked against them.

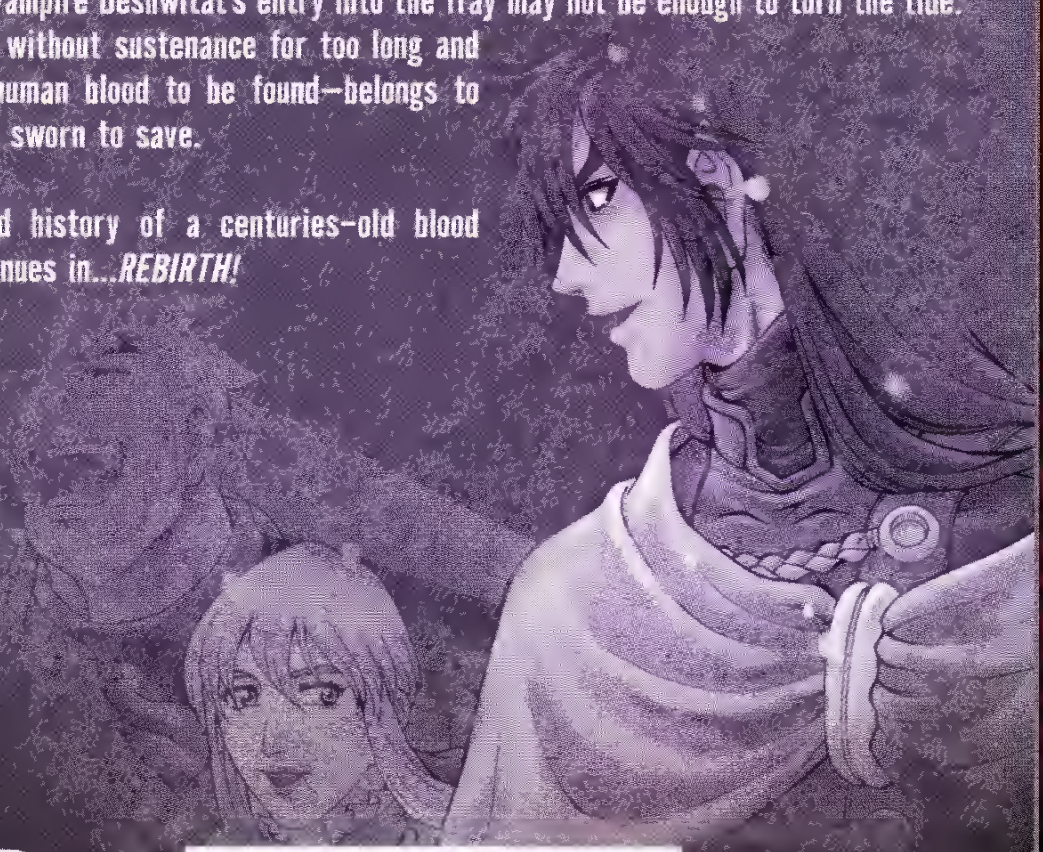
AN INDESTRUCTABLE ENEMY...

Meet the Swamp Clan...the most murderous, degenerate family unit to ever walk the Earth. Individually, they're deadly. Together, they're truly monstrous.

AND A BAND OF DESPERATE HEROES...

Even the vampire Deshwitat's entry into the fray may not be enough to turn the tide. He's been without sustenance for too long and the only human blood to be found—belongs to those he's sworn to save.

The untold history of a centuries-old blood feud continues in...*REBIRTH!*



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